

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for exporting information created in a first system using a first application to one or more external systems, comprising:

    retrieving data from an identified database object, the database object data including attribute data for the database object, the attributes including at least one static attribute with a predefined data structure and at least one dynamic attribute that is dynamically configured by a user;

    retrieving metadata from the database object, the metadata including a name, a data type, and a value for each attribute of the database object;

    creating and storing an electronic file for the database object in a generalized data format by constructing a generalized data structure for the attribute data using the metadata and parsing the attribute data into the generalized data structure; and

    exporting the electronic file to one or more external systems for display using an application residing on the one or more external systems.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

    receiving a request for database object data associated with a particular database object.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving database object data comprises retrieving opportunity header data and data for one or more opportunity listings.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the database object data includes data related to a desired commercial transaction.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the opportunity header data includes an opportunity type and an opportunity identifier.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the data for one or more opportunity listings includes product data, the product data associated with a product to be obtained as a result of the desired commercial transaction.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the data for one or more opportunity listings includes service data, the service data associated with a service to be obtained as a result of the desired commercial transaction.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein retrieving database object data comprises retrieving response data associated with the one or more opportunity listings.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the response data includes a bid amount corresponding to one or the one or more opportunity listings.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving database object data includes executing one or more series query language statements according to a persistence layer implementation.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the generalized data structure conforms to extensible markup language (XML) format.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions that, when executed, operable to cause one or more machines to perform computer-

implemented operations for exporting information created in a first system using a first application to one or more external systems, the operations comprising:

retrieving data from an identified database object, the database object data including attribute data for the database object, the attributes including at least one static attribute with a predefined data structure and at least one dynamic attribute that is dynamically configured by a user;

retrieving metadata from the database object, the metadata including a name, a data type, and a value for each attribute of the database object;

creating and storing an electronic file for the database object in a generalized data format by constructing a generalized data structure for the attribute data using the metadata, and parsing the attribute data into the generalized data structure; and

exporting the electronic file to one or more external systems for display using an application residing on the one or more external systems.

15. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, further comprising:

receiving a request for database object data associated with a particular database object.

16. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, wherein retrieving database object data comprises retrieving data associated with an opportunity to bid on a possible commercial transaction between a purchaser of goods or services and a supplier of the goods or services, the retrieved data including opportunity data associated with the opportunity to bid and listing data associated with the goods or services corresponding to the possible commercial transaction.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the opportunity data includes an opportunity type and an opportunity identifier.

19. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the listing data includes product data, the product data associated with a product to be obtained as a result of the desired

commercial transaction.

20. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein the listing data includes service data, the service data associated with a service to be obtained as a result of the desired commercial transaction.

21. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 16, wherein retrieving database object data comprises retrieving response data associated with the opportunity to bid on the possible commercial transaction.

22. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 21, wherein the response data includes a bid amount corresponding to the opportunity to bid.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, wherein retrieving database object data includes executing one or more structured query language statements according to a persistence layer implementation.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The article of claim 14, wherein the generalized data structure conforms to extensible markup language (XML) format.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) A system for exporting information created in the system using a first application to one or more external systems, the system comprising:

means for storing database object data for a plurality of database objects in one or more database tables;

means for retrieving particular database object data associated with a particular database object from the one or more database tables, the particular database object data including

attribute data the particular database business object, the attributes including at least one static attribute with a predefined data structure and at least one dynamic attribute that is dynamically configured by a user;

means for retrieving metadata from the particular database object data, the metadata including a name, a data type, and a value for each attribute of the particular database object data;

means for creating and storing an electronic file for the database object in a generalized data format by constructing a generalized data structure for the attribute data using the metadata, and parsing the attribute data into the generalized data structure; and

means for exporting the electronic file to one or more external systems for display using an application residing on the one or more external systems.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, further comprising:

means for identifying the particular database object.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27, wherein the means for retrieving database object data comprises means for retrieving opportunity header data and data for one or more opportunity listings.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the means for retrieving database object data comprises means for retrieving response data associated with the one or more opportunity listings.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the generalized data structure conforms to XML format.

33. (Withdrawn) A computer-implemented method for dynamically formatting information received in a purchasing system and exporting the formatted information to one or more external supplier systems, the method comprising:

presenting in the purchasing system a user interface having a plurality of attribute value fields for receiving attribute values associated with corresponding attributes of a desired commercial opportunity;

creating an opportunity data object associated with the desired commercial transaction and based on user input associated with the plurality of attribute value fields;

storing a plurality of attribute values associated with the opportunity data object and a corresponding plurality of metadata elements in one or more database tables, each metadata element in the plurality of metadata elements corresponding to and providing metadata information about an attribute value in the plurality of attribute values, the metadata information comprising a name, a data type, and a value for each attribute value associated with the opportunity data object;

retrieving from the one or more database tables each of the plurality of metadata elements;

dynamically creating, after retrieving at least one of the plurality of metadata elements, a message for transmission to the one or more external supplier systems, wherein the message comprises a portion corresponding to each retrieved metadata element, and wherein the message further comprises the plurality of attribute values; and

transmitting the message to the one or more external supplier systems.

34. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of claim 33, further comprising receiving from one or the one or more external supplier systems bid data in response to the transmitted message.

35. (Withdrawn) The computer-implemented method of claim 33, wherein dynamically creating the message comprises type-checking the plurality of attribute values using the corresponding plurality of metadata elements.